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# Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

## In Memoriam

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WILLIAM HARRISON LAMBERT

*Brevet Major U. S. Volunteers*

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DIED AT PHILADELPHIA PA. JUNE 1 1912

# Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

CIRCULAR NO. 14 }  
Series of 1912.  
Whole No. 750.

Philadelphia, October 21, 1912.

WILLIAM HARRISON LAMBERT.

Private 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry August 22, 1862; discharged for promotion November 24, 1862.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant 27th New Jersey Infantry November 27, 1862; honorably mustered out July 2, 1863.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant 33d New Jersey Infantry July 25, 1863; Captain January 16, 1864; honorably mustered out July 17, 1865.

Brevetted Major U. S. Volunteers March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious conduct during the war."

Awarded the "Medal of Honor" under resolution of Congress "for having offered his services to the Government after expiration of his term."

Elected January 14, 1880. Class 1. Insignia 1985.

Junior Vice-Commander of the Commandery May 4, 1887-1888.

Commander May 3, 1911-1912.

Representative from the Commandery to the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Ninth Quadrennial Congress of the Order.

Born May 9, 1842, at Reading, Pa.

Died June 1, 1912, at Philadelphia, Pa.

The life of our late Companion and Commander, William H. Lambert, may well be remembered with affectionate pride, not only by his family, but by that large circle whose privilege it was to share his friendship, and to have the knowledge of his faithful and conscientious discharge of duty in the many positions which he filled during his honorable and active career. Born in 1842, he was a little over 20 years old when, at his country's call, he forsook the study of law, and on August 22nd, 1862, enlisted as a private in the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry (Anderson Cavalry), serving in Maryland and Virginia during Lee's invasion and participating in the battle of Antietam. Accompanying his command to Louisville, Ky., he was in the west until November 24th, 1862, when he was discharged to accept a commission, November 27th, 1862, as First Lieutenant and Adjutant 27th New Jersey Infantry, a nine months' regiment which was attached to the 9th Corps of the Army of the Potomac and was present at the battle of Fredericksburg December, 1862. In the spring of 1863, his regiment was sent to Kentucky and served with credit in that State until its muster out in July, 1863.

On July 25th, 1863, he was appointed First Lieutenant and Adjutant 33rd New Jersey Infantry, which he assisted in recruiting, and which having been assigned to the 11th Corps of the Army of the Potomac, formed a part of the force which, under Major General Hooker, opened the "Cracker Blockade," and gave such timely help to the army of Major-General Rosecrans, then besieged at Chattanooga. Companion Lambert took part in the series of battles around Chattanooga, when General Bragg was so badly defeated, and also in the march to the relief of General Burnside, fiercely assailed at Knoxville by a large force under the command of General Longstreet.

On January 16th, 1864, he was made Captain Company A of his regiment, and in May, 1864, was appointed Aid-de-Camp on the Staff of General Geary, commanding 2d Division (the White Star Division) of the 20th Corps (of the Army of the Cumberland), formed by the consolidation of the 11th and 12th Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He was subsequently made Acting Assistant Inspector General on the same staff, and served with signal gallantry and efficiency during the Atlanta Campaign and in Sherman's march to the Sea. He was one of that veteran army which passed before the President in the Grand Review at Washington which marked the close of the War of the Rebellion.

On the disbandment of Sherman's Army, he was assigned to duty on the Staff of General Wilcox, commanding the District of Washington. On March 13, 1865, he was brevetted Major "for gallant and meritorious conduct during the War," and in July, 1865, was with his regiment mustered out. Having tendered his services to the Government in defence of Pennsylvania, after the expiration of one of his terms of duty, he was awarded a medal of honor under the resolution of Congress.

Although born in Reading, his parents removed to Philadelphia when he was quite young, and he was educated in its public schools and graduated from the Central High School in 1859. In March, 1866, he became connected with the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and a partner in its management in 1872. His active business life for nearly forty years was closely identified with that corporation, he having resigned as its Pennsylvania manager in 1904. Its marvellous growth during that period is the best tribute to the ability with which it was conducted, it having become one of the three largest and strongest life insurance companies in the United States. But in addition to the heavy responsibilities which this connection devolved upon him, he was honored by appointments to positions of high trust in connection with the administration of the City's affairs. He was made a member of the Department of Charities and Correction, serving as its President from September 30th, 1892, until April 3rd, 1899. In that same year he was appointed to the Board of City Trusts, which manages a property of enormous value, largely the result of bequests made by Stephen Girard, and occupied that position until his death. He was one of the Trustees of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and also Treasurer of the Mercantile Library. He was a member of Post 2 of the G. A. R., of the Union League, of the Art and Penn Clubs, and other civic organizations, and one of the Council of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

During his whole life he was a student of letters, and as a natural consequence of his military career, took special interest in the literature of the War. He thus amassed a unique and invaluable collection bearing upon the lives of Abraham Lincoln and General George H. Thomas. His Thackeray collection is equally famous, and it is a matter of profound regret that in a fire that took place a few years since, serious loss and damage occurred to both his Lincoln and Thackeray collections. Companion Lambert was a forceful and impressive speaker, and was continually called upon to deliver orations and addresses at important public functions. At the unveiling of monuments in our National Cemeteries, at the meetings of the Armies of the Potomac and Cumberland, at commemorations of the services of our great generals, Meade, Hancock and others, at the recurring anniversaries of the birth of our martyr President, Abraham Lincoln, at the meetings of the Loyal Legion, whenever it was felt that that which was to be said should be fitly said, Companion Lambert was of those chosen to pay honor to our illustrious dead.

He was a member of the Commandery since January 14th, 1880, was elected its Junior Vice-Commander May 4th, 1887, and had completed a year of service as its Commander in May last, only a few weeks before his death. He was also a Representative from the Commandery at the fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth Quadrennial Congress of the Order. It is unnecessary to say how devoted he was to its interests, and how helpful in the administration of its affairs. He was known to us all as a genial comrade, a faithful friend and a gallant soldier and gentleman.

Companion Lambert was married October 15, 1874, to Herminia Van Haagen, who, with a son and three daughters, survive him.

JNO. P. GREEN,  
Captain and Asst. Adjt. General U. S. Volunteers.

MOSES VEALE,  
Major 109th Penna. Infantry.

POWELL STACKHOUSE,  
Major 198th Penna. Infantry.

EDWIN A. LANDELL,  
Brevet Lieut.-Colonel U. S. Volunteers.

JOHN O. FOERING,  
Brevet Captain U. S. Volunteers.

*Committee.*

By command of

Brig.-General SAMUEL W. FOUNTAIN, U. S. A.  
Commander

JOHN P. NICHOLSON  
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V.

*Recorder*

*Official*

*Recorder*